

BLACK LINES

A MONTHLY LGBTQ+ NEWSLETTER FROM WINDY CITY TIMES

Anna DeShawn

BLACKlines coordinator



Family,

Happy Black History Month! ❤️🖤🌱👊

As the 100th anniversary of Black History Month comes to a close, remember it is a gift to be queer, gifted and Black. I hope you spent some time celebrating those beautiful intersections that only we get to experience.

In this moment I am reminded of Chicago's own Lena Waithe's 2017 Emmy speech where she said, "The things that make us different, those are our superpowers—every day when you walk out the door and put on your imaginary cape and go out there and conquer the world because the world would not be as beautiful as it is if we weren't in it."

Never forget that.

As Black queer people, we get to celebrate some of the fiercest humans to ever walk the earth: Vernita Gray, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Robert Ford, Lois Bates and so many

others. We get to claim the inheritance they've left us, which is to love ALL of who we are unapologetically.

Till next month,




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SNAP RULES ARE CHANGING

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Our top story 

How Jesse Jackson's HIV and LGBTQ+ legacy reshaped coalition politics



Rae Lewis-Thornton kept her HIV diagnosis secret for years, even as she worked closely alongside Rev. Jesse Jackson through the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and his presidential campaigns.

When she finally told him, she braced for the uncertainty that defined the early years of the AIDS crisis: stigma, fear and silence.

Instead, Jackson responded simply.

"I loved you before AIDS, and I love you with AIDS," Jackson told Lewis-Thornton.

For Lewis-Thornton, the moment captured Jackson's personal response to HIV and his willingness to confront stigma long before it was politically safe.

"That's the humanity he showed everyone," Lewis-Thornton said.

Jackson, who died at 84 on Feb. 17, leaves behind a civil rights legacy that includes decades of HIV advocacy alongside sustained support for LGBTQ+ communities—work that unfolded not as a side issue but as part of his broader vision of a "Rainbow Coalition"

that included people living with HIV, gay and lesbian Americans and other marginalized communities.

"He has an HIV and LGBTQ+ legacy," Lewis-Thornton said. "That history matters."

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Out the Archives

Jesse Jackson at the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

This month we dive into the Windy City Times and Outlines archives to look at two stories that demonstrate Rev. Jackson's LGBTQ+ allyship.

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More BLACKlines stories



Police called on State Sen. Mike Simmons while canvassing in Uptown

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City ushers in new LGBTQ+ director at advisory council meeting

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From the E3 Radio studio 

Dreaming Bigger: B. DeVeaux on Jazmine

Sullivan, Grief and the SF Jazz Festival



This week our Queer News correspondent Corey Antonio Rose takes us behind the scenes for an intimate, "fly-on-the-wall" look at the creative process of up-and-coming star B DeVeaux.

An immensely talented non-binary neo-soul singer and songwriter, B. is currently preparing for their landmark SF Jazz Festival debut, where they are tackling the monumental task of performing Jazmine Sullivan's 2008 classic *Fearless* from front to back.

This segment is a powerful reminder to dream beyond the limits of your own imagination, because as B says, "when it happens, it's going to happen real quick." B.'s new single, *I Had to Learn*, is out now on all streaming platforms.

Go listen and support today, because we all we got!

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For the Social Butterflies 🦋


Windy City Times adds new events every week to the **Chicago Social Butterflies** calendar. To submit your event, go to our [submission page](#).

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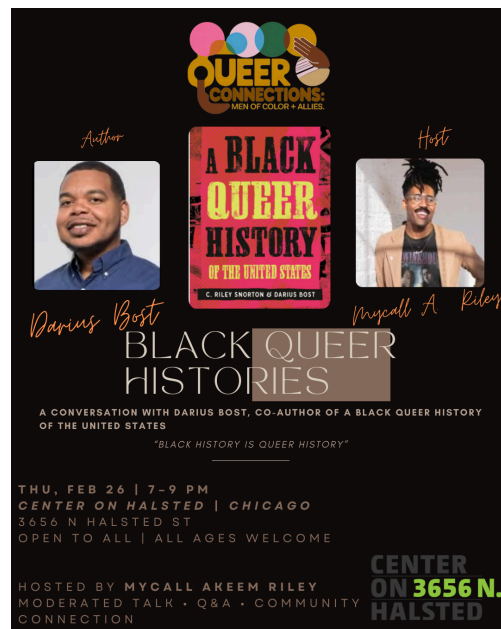
Queer Connections Presents: Black Queer Histories "A Conversation with Author Darius Bost"

 **17**: Thursday, Feb. 26

: 7-9 p.m.

: Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

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